

YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY GOD - FOR FULL ASSURANCE.

(Paihia Family Church – 7/11/99 – EKB)

1. **Some believers are harassed by thoughts** that they do not have a genuine satisfactory relationship with God, God does not approve of them, they are not pleasing to God and are always falling short. **If this is happening to you**, and you are a genuine believer seeking to please God and believe His Word, then this message is for you.
2. **When we first come to believe in Christ**, we enter in through the door of salvation, *Mat 7:14*. Written over the doorway are the words, “Whosoever will may come,” “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved,” “Whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” *Ac 16:31, Jn 3:16*.
3. **After we become Christians**, receive the Holy Spirit, forgiveness of sins, water baptism and the gifts of the Spirit, we can still be plagued by thoughts of not measuring up, as mentioned in point 1 above.
4. **However if we turn around and look back at the door of salvation we have entered by**, and look at it now from God’s point of view, we see written over the doorway, “**Chosen from before the foundation of the world**,” *Eph 1:4*. “You belong to Me, you are Mine,” *Is 43:1,2*.
5. **You see, long before we thought of believing in Christ, God had chosen us to be His**, *Eph 1:4, 2Tim 1:9, 1Pet 1:2, Rom 8:29, Jn 15:16, Ac 22:14,15, 2Chr 29:11, 1Pet 2:5,9*. (Please look these references up.)
6. **A long time before we entered the gate of salvation, God the Father had been working in our lives to draw us to Christ**, *Jn 6:44*, and **then He gave us to Christ**, *Jn 6:37, 17:6,9-12*.
7. **So our salvation is much more God’s work than ours. Our salvation depends on what God has done for us, much more than it does on our decision** to believe in Christ. Please read *2Tim 1:9*. This is what it says.
8. **When God says, “I have chosen you,”** it means He has laid hold of us, that we are special to Him, precious, valued, belong to Him, owned by Him, held by Him and kept by Him.
9. **In *Is 41:9*, it says, “I have chosen you and not cast you away.”** The next verse is the result of being chosen, *v10*, “Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will help you, I will strengthen you, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness.”
10. **The Bible says, God chose us before time began**, *2Tim 1:9, Eph 1:4*. This implies God’s foreknowledge which is mentioned in *1Pet 1:2, Rom 8:29*, while in *Is 46:10* it says, “God declares the end from the beginning.”
11. **We are in time/space framework having a past, present and future, but God is in the eternal present.** He says His name is, “**I AM, THAT I AM**,” *Ex 3:14*, and Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, **I AM**,” *Jn 8:58*. God is not living in the present trying to predict the future as we are. He sees the end from the beginning.

12. **God's choosing of us adds to us a strong sense of assurance in our relationship with Him.** We are able to be confident and secure in our Christian walk knowing that **He has chosen us. We belong to Him.**

13. **Finally God has chosen us in Christ** to be holy and without blame before Him in love, *Eph 1:4*. His choosing of us ordains us to be fruitful, with lasting fruit, and have our prayers answered, *Jn 15:16*. He has chosen us to know His will, see the Just One, hear the voice of His mouth, and be His witnesses to all men, *Ac 22:14*. As the people of God we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that we may proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvellous light, *1Pet 2:9*.